

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 12, 2004
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek,
Chair
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa, Vice Chair
Mayor John Keegan, Peoria, Treasurer

Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
* Mayor Woody Thomas, Litchfield Park

* Not present

Participated by videoconference or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Feldman-Kerr at 12:08 p.m.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Feldman-Kerr noted that according to MAG's public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. She stated that there is a three minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only.

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that there were no public comment cards received.

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that public comment will be received before taking action on the consent items. Each speaker is provided with a total of three minutes to comment on the consent agenda. After hearing public comments, any member of the Committee can request that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that agenda items #3A through #3C were on the consent agenda.

Mayor John Keegan moved to approve consent agenda items #3A, #3B, and #3C. Mayor Joan Shafer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3A Approval of the December 15, 2003 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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_____The Executive Committee, by consent, approved the December 15, 2003 meeting minutes.

3B. Status Update on the June 30, 2003 Single Audit and Management Letter Comments, MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and OMB Circular A-133 Reports (i.e., "Single Audit") for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

_____The Executive Committee, by consent, recommended acceptance of the MAG Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2003. The public accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP has completed the audit of MAG's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. An unqualified audit opinion was issued on December 22, 2003 on the financial statements of governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information. The independent auditors' report on compliance, with the requirements applicable to major federal award programs, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Single Audit. The Single Audit report indicated there were no reportable conditions in MAG's internal control over financial reporting considered to be material weaknesses, no instances of noncompliance considered to be material and no questioned costs. No new or repeat Management Letter comments were issued for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003.

3C. Amendment to the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Include Funding from the Transportation Improvement Program

_____The Executive Committee, by consent, approved an amendment to the FY 2004 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to add \$450,000 in FY 2004 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funds for the MAG Regional Videoconference operating expenses (year 3 of 3). On November 25, the Regional Council approved the FY 2004-2007 Transportation Improvement Program, which included \$450,000 of FY 2004 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the MAG Regional Videoconference operating expenses (year 3 of 3). The \$450,000 of CMAQ funds need to be added to the FY 2004 MAG Work Program and Annual Budget.

4. Discussion of the Development of the FY 2005 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

_____Becky Kimbrough addressed the Committee on the development of the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. She noted that the Work Program is reviewed each year by the federal agencies in April and approved by the Regional Council in May. Ms. Kimbrough noted that this presentation is an overview of MAG's proposed new projects for the FY 2005 Work Program and draft Dues and Assessments. Ms. Kimbrough began by reviewing the draft budget production timeline. She stated that the Intergovernmental Representatives and the Management Committee have reviewed the first draft, and there have been two updates. Ms. Kimbrough noted the timeline changes since the Executive Committee mailing. The first change was the Budget Workshop Videoconference that was scheduled for February 6, 2004 and moved to February 13, 2004. She noted that any input on dates is welcome. Ms. Kimbrough explained that the inflation factor from the Regional Transportation Plan of 3.9 percent, or \$21,379, has been applied this year to the dues and assessments. She added that the inflation factor was not added last year because of member

agency budget situations. Ms. Kimbrough stated that the proposed new projects documents narrative has been revised and adjusted to estimate costs material.

Dennis Smith stated that these proposed new projects were reviewed extensively with the Intergovernmental Representatives. He noted that there was extensive discussion on smart growth. Mr. Smith asked Jack Tomasik to update the Executive Committee on the smart growth project. Mr. Tomasik stated that it is a very complex project that would prepare planning information that can be used by member agencies to reduce regional travel demand. He commented that developing subregions throughout the Valley that are as economically self-sufficient as possible will reduce travel demand.

Mr. Tomasik explained that the project will consist of three separate stages. The first stage is on the economic development side and complements work being conducted by GPEC. It will develop profiles of industry cluster sub-sectors and include site factor needs. Mr. Tomasik stated that a Maricopa County GIS database of the site factors will be developed from these industry needs, and a model will be created that will quantitatively identify competitiveness for each cluster sub-sector of each of the job centers. Mr. Tomasik advised that these databases and model will allow member agencies to identify their best target industries for each job center, the most competitive job centers in their communities, and the improvements that could be made through local policies and investments to make the job centers more competitive.

Mr. Tomasik stated that the second stage includes developing alternative projection scenarios for Maricopa County industry development using REMI. He explained that the objective is to focus on industry projections, as opposed to total population or employment. Mr. Tomasik stated that the alternative scenarios could be based on such parameters as national/state policies, economic market trends, and emerging regional issues. The result would be projections of jobs by industry, both for Maricopa County as a whole and also for all the community job centers of MAG member agencies.

Mr. Tomasik stated that in the third stage, the explicit link between economic development and housing will be made. He indicated that the demand for housing by price categories will be estimated. Housing demand can then be compared to existing and planned housing supply to identify potential gaps and residential development opportunities within each job center's commute shed. Mr. Tomasik stated that this information could be used by member agencies for planning residential land use. Also, this information will allow member agencies and MAG transportation planners to focus on commuter-oriented transportation that would link key residential areas with key job centers. Commuter-oriented transportation includes HOV lanes, park & ride lots, bus rapid transit, and light rail.

Mr. Tomasik stated that although there will be a final report, the most important part of this project will be the databases and model that would be transmitted to member agencies for their own uses.

Mr. Smith stated that we need to be competitive with other metropolitan areas. He stated that the data will go back to the cities to use in their economic development planning process. Mayor Shafer stated that she feels that this would be telling cities and towns how to plan their development. Mr. Tomasik replied that MAG is taking it a step further than GPEC. Mayor

Manross stated that it sounds like this information would be very helpful to cities. Mayor Shafer stated that she thinks it is too hazy. Chair Feldman-Kerr clarified that this information is not telling the cities what to do, it is giving them information from which to do their planning. Mayor Keegan gave an example of how data and information from GPEC changed his mind about mass transit and light rail. Mayor Hawker asked whether this information could be used to review large development projects that encourage sprawl. He commented at what point do we say that without the appropriate infrastructure, it cannot be built. Mr. Tomasik replied that the information will be there, but there has not been any thought about extending its use for such a policy. Mayor Keegan stated that there is no unified message and that communities are not working with each other. He stated that this sounds like a good idea for the cities and towns. Mayor Hawker stated that he supports the concept, but is not sure how it will work. Mayor Manross stated that maybe it does give us enough information. She noted how cities would need to give up autonomy, and that introducing this in small steps may be the way to get there. Mayor Hawker noted that we do have power through the TIP to enforce this concept. Mayor Manross stated that ideally we do have power through the TIP. Mr. Smith stated that we take this first step and trust the cities and towns to make the best decision. He noted that the process can be reviewed again in a few years. Mayor Shafer asked the cost of project. Mr. Tomasik replied the cost would be \$300,000 of federal funds. Mayor Shafer stated that she would rather have those funds for roads.

Mr. Smith continued with potential additional special assessment projects. He stated that this would include compiling building codes information and posting it on a MAG Web site. This gives all cities access to this information. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that Queen Creek's building codes committee has requested this information in the past. Ms. Kimbrough referenced the special assessment table in the handouts. Mayor Hawker asked if the building codes relate to the fire codes and other codes or is this just a clearing house. Mr. Smith explained that the City of Phoenix is looking at going with different building codes, but all others are the same. Mr. Smith explained that we would like to develop this data base so the cities can access it and see other city's standard codes and any exceptions. Mayor Hawker asked who we are facilitating – the developer? Mayor Keegan replied that he believes that we are facilitating the subcontractor that travels from city to city, daily. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that her building codes people have stated that they would like to have a place to go to look at other communities.

Mayor Hawker addressed the School Crossing Safety Training Workshop. He offered the training video that Mesa uses for their crossing guards to possibly save money. Mr. Smith stated that this project piggybacks off the City of Phoenix. Mayor Hawker asked what \$10,000 will get us and if we are duplicating any efforts. Eric Anderson replied that he believes this includes the preparation and curriculum materials. He also noted that we are proposing this project because of the use of city streets and cities are responsible for enforcement. He explained that this project is a train the trainer, not the crossing guards, due to the high turnover of crossing guards. Mr. Anderson stated that we will look into it to see if we are duplicating any effort and report back to the Executive Committee.

Mayor Hawker asked for an explanation on the Walking and Bicycling in the 21st Century Conference Series. Mr. Anderson explained that this is a conference that we co-sponsored in the past, which involves national experts on planning. Mayor Hawker asked what the registration fee

and number attendees has been in the past. Mr. Smith stated that we will get back to the Committee with the registration fee and number of attendees.

Mayor Hawker asked about the ADOT/MAG Freeway Traffic Count System. Mr. Anderson explained that this is a core element of data that we need for planning. Mayor Hawker asked if we could sell this information to recover the cost. Mr. Anderson stated that there may be such an opportunity if the data could be made available in real time.

Mayor Hawker asked the outcome of the \$60,000 spent on the Urban Heat Island. Lindy Bauer replied that this project may be of interest to cities in reducing heat and improving air quality. She noted that this is a cost estimate for a consultant to compile data and measures. Mayor Manross stated that she thinks this is serious, but believes \$60,000 is a lot of money. Mr. Smith stated that we could begin by doing this as an informal process with a stakeholders group. The Committee agreed.

5. Legislative Update

Mr. Smith provided an update on the transportation, State retirement and Regulatory Board bills. He thanked Jim Huling, Norris Nordvold, Kristin Greene Skabo and Brian Townsend for their work on the transportation bill. Mr. Smith noted that most issues have been addressed. There is a RTP Day at the Legislature scheduled this week on Wednesday, January 14 on the House lawn. He also noted there is a house hearing on Thursday, and a hearing at the House and Senate next Tuesday, January 20. Mr. Smith also noted that the Governor was on Horizon and fully supported the Plan and the May 18th election date. Mayor Shafer stated that there has been a lot of talk about light rail and that people do not like it, particularly the maintenance and operation. Mayor Manross suggested a replied that they have been paying the last 20 years for freeway all over the Valley and that it is all part of the regional effort. Chair Feldman-Kerr stated that talking points are available if needed. Mr. Smith stated that the TPC realized that a cookie cutter approach is not going to work, and that is why light rail is in the core part of the Valley.

Mr. Smith updated the Executive Committee on the State Retirement Bill. He noted that Representative John Huppenthal and Senator Dean Martin are key sponsors of this bill. Mr. Smith thanked Patrice Kraus for her help on HB 2049. He also noted that there is HB 2029 that was introduced by State Retirement, which undoes HB 2049. There is a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the Regulatory Reform. This legislation would make MAG a regulatory body. Mr. Smith stated that we are working with The League of Arizona Cities and Towns and the County Supervisors Association.

6. Annual Performance Review of the MAG Executive Director

The Executive Committee voted to recess the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and go into executive session to discuss personnel matters relating to the MAG Executive Director's review and salary.

Mayor Keegan moved to go into executive session. Mayor Shafer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Committee reconvened regular session at 1:45 p.m.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Chair

Secretary